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Superheroes of the Bible

"By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw that he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict." Hebrews 11:23

"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. By faith..." Hebrews 11:24-28



"By faith..." We cannot look at the lives of those that we might call God's superheroes without understanding pretty quickly that their faith choice made and still makes all the difference. Their faith choice changed their lives and our own faith choice will, by its very nature, change our lives.

Noah's faith led to his survival. Abraham's choice led to the 'Promised Land'. Moses' choice led Israel out of captivity. Over and over again these great heroes of faith experienced the life-changing force that true faith always produces.

There is however, a huge difference between a faith choice and simple belief, just as there is a huge difference between being a 'believer' and being a 'disciple'. If Noah had only believed God's warning, but not placed his faith in it, the ark would never have been completed and Noah would have died in the flood. If Abraham had not made his faith choice to follow God, then he would have died in Ur of the Chaldees.

If Moses had not made his faith choice to stand with his people he would have died in an Egyptian palace and no one would remember him. Every great Biblical hero became a hero because they made a faith choice which in turn, led them to surrender their very lives to God.

In the same way a true disciple will surrender their complete and total existence to God, while a believer may simply choose to 'go to church'. The Greek term for 'disciple' in the New Testament is 'mathetes' refers to someone who competely keeps the teachings of another, accepting those teachings as the rule for their own life and conduct.

In the first century Jesus' followers were nearly always called 'disciples' because they literally left all that they had to follow him. In Matthew 9, Jesus calls Matthew, and we are told that when Jesus made that call. ***"Matthew got up and followed him."***

Our Lord also tells his true followers that being his disciple carries an all-consuming cost. He teaches them, ***"In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot***

be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33) And “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25)

In every case the great heroes of the Bible were heroes because they surrendered their lives completely to God through their faith choices. Noah didn't just accept the possibility of the flood, he gave his life constructing an ark because God told him to. Abraham did not become the 'Father of the Faithful' because God called him, but because he chose to follow God. Moses, David, Elisha, Esther, and all of the other heroes of Scripture are heroes because they chose faith even over life.

Every one of us is constantly being faced with this same choice. We probably all believe in the God of the Bible to some degree or we would not be here today. But how many of us have chosen to make the teachings of Jesus the rule of our life in every situation? That means that every time the world tells us one thing and Jesus tells us something else we choose to do it Jesus' way and his way only. This level of surrender is very, very difficult, but it is what ultimately makes us true disciples.

